



News Release

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WINDS OF GROWTH CONTINUE TO BLOW
THROUGH IDAHO'S NEW WIND POWER INDUSTRY

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Idaho's commercial wind power industry, nonexistent less than a year ago, continues to develop. And now a new Federal government wind power resource map, listing more than 1.3 million acres of Idaho as having wind power development potential, could help it grow even more, state energy managers said today.

More than half a dozen signed wind power development agreements now have been reached with southern Idaho land owners, according to officials from enXco, an international wind power development. The agreements are the first step in an evaluation and development process that could lead to wind turbines being installed to generate electricity.

The largest segment of the state with good wind power potential is an 800,000 acre area in Owyhee and southern Elmore Counties with Class 3 wind, according to the revised Idaho wind power resource map released by the U.S. Department of Energy. Class 3 winds are an average of 14 miles per hour or higher.

Five other areas have Class 3 winds in more than 100,000 acres of land. These include lands in Bingham, Blaine, Bonneville, Butte, Camas, Cassia, Clark, Custer, Gooding, Jefferson,, Lemhi, Lincoln and Power counties. Twenty other areas of the state have more than 1,000 acres of windy land, which might also be suitable for wind power development, according to Federal energy officials.

A copy of the map is available on the Internet at the Idaho Energy Division's Wind web site. The address is: **www.idwr.state.id.us/energy/Wind**.

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Wind Power Development – Page 2 of 2

The agreements signed between enXco and Idaho landowners are the first step in development for an actually commercial wind power industry in the state.

“enXco will be installing meteorological towers at most of those locations as soon as the weather permits,” said Dave Luck, the company’s Idaho business development. The met towers, as they are called, are used to make sophisticated measurements of the wind at various heights. The data is then used to determine just how feasible a project might be.

“If the projects actually reach fruition, we envision a series of modest sized projects in the 25 to 50 megawatts range,” Luck said.

enXco already has installed met towers at its Notch Butte project north of Jerome. That project could eventually lead to more than two dozen wind turbines spread across 1,000 acres of ranchland producing up to 30 megawatts of power.

For more information on enXco, contact Luck at (503) 913-6212. The company also has an Internet Web Site: **www.enxco.com**.

Meanwhile, the Idaho Wind Power Working Group has scheduled its next meeting for January 31 at 8:30 a.m. at the Owyhee Hotel in Boise. The group is headed by the Idaho Energy Division and is formed from government and private sector representatives. The Group’s goal is to further the development of a wind power industry in the state.

For more information on the meeting, call Barbara White, (208) 327-7960.